

Customs Act, 1962 which has been enacted in Finance Act, 1995 provides for imposition of interest @ 20% on the amount the payment of which is delayed by the importer. In addition, Section 142 (I) (C) (ii) has been introduced by Finance Act, 1995, enabling the officers of the Department to distrain any movable or immovable property belonging to the said importer and cause the said property to be sold and appropriate the sale proceeds towards the sums due to the Government.

#### Rubber and Coffee under OGL

412. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rubber and Coffee have been put under OGL in the new import policy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation against it; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d). Under the current Export and Import Policy, as amended, import of natural rubber continues to be restricted. However, import of the same is permitted against freely transferable Special Import Licences. Import of coffee roasted not decaffeinated and decaffeinated coffee in bulk packaging is freely permitted.

Some representations have been received in respect of coffee and since review of Export and Import Policy is an ongoing process, changes, if any, in the Policy may be made as and when considered necessary in public interest.

#### Jute Cess Fund

413. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases of diversion of jute cess fund have come to the notice of the Government during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against the persons responsible for this diversion of funds; and

(c) the amount of Jute Cess Fund collected during the last two years together with the details of heads under which it was spent?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The figures of total jute cess collections during the last two years are as under :

Year	Cess collected
1994-95	Rs. 1692 lakhs
1995-96	Rs. 1254 lakhs

The Jute Cess Fund is collected and credited to the Consolidated Fund of India. Every year, the Government releases funds to Jute Manufactures Development Council (JMDC) from out of the proceeds of Jute Cess Funds, so collected, which are utilised mainly towards Market Promotion activities. The JMDC utilises a part of the grant received towards Training and Development by allocating funds to the Institute of Jute Technology. The year-wise utilisation of grants towards Training and Marketing activities are as follows :

Year	Training Expenses	Promotional Expenses
1994-95	Rs. 30.00 lakhs	Rs. 1625.38 lakhs
1995-96	Rs. 33.75 lakhs	Rs. 2630.93 lakhs (including arrears)

#### Decline in Export

414. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :  
SHRI A.C. JOSE :  
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :  
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in export trade during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor indicating the volume and value alongwith the figures of export trade of major commodities/goods during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(c) whether the Government have received any suggestions from various Export Promotion Councils to accelerate/export growth; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir. As per latest data available from DGCI and S, exports during April-Sept., 1996 are valued at US \$ 16.14 billion representing a growth of 9.9% over the level of exports valued at US \$ 14.68 billion in April-Sept., 1995.

(b) India's total exports (DGCI and S data) for 1994-95 were valued at US \$ 26.33 billion and for 1995-96 at US \$ 31.83 billion.

(c) and (d). Interaction between Government and the various agencies for accelerating exports is a continuous process and remedial measures are taken from time to time based on the suggestions of these agencies including Export Promotion Councils

### Conference on Investment Opportunities

415. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prime Minister inaugurated two day conclave titled "Destination India-Global Summit on Investment Opportunities";

(b) if so, whether this conference was organised by Ministry of Industry and FICCI;

(c) whether the conference was successful in bringing together 500 businessmen from India and abroad;

(d) the main decision arrived at in the conference;

(e) the number of foreign investors attended the conference; and

(f) the decision taken and steps taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Ministry of Industry, in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, organised a Global Summit on Investment Opportunities in India on September 10-11, 1996 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. It was attended by about 100 foreign delegates and around 400 Indian delegates.

(d) to (f). The Summit which was attended by about 100 foreign delegates was intended to evolve a cross-fertilisation of ideas and suggestions to buttress the on-going process of promoting further investment opportunities in the country and to provide special focus on six thrust sectors namely, Information technology, Computer software, Energy-Power, hydrocarbon and non-conventional energy sources, Transport Infrastructure, Agri business and food processing, Financial Services, and Environmental Technologies. The suggestions received from the participants provided valuable input for Government's continuing effort to promote investment and to update policy.

[Translation]

### Pension Scheme in Allahabad Bank

416. SHRI PITAMBAR PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Allahabad Bank has implemented the new pension scheme in its all branches and started

paying pension to widows of its employees in accordance with this scheme;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that Sultanpur branch of the bank has not yet implemented the new pension scheme; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The bank has informed that it has implemented the new pension scheme in respect of all branches including Sultanpur branch.

### KVIC

417. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on bee-keeping by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission and other such agencies during the last three years;

(b) whether a survey has been carried out about the protection of bee-keeping Industry in various States of the country particularly in Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The details of total amount spent on bee-keeping by KVIC during the last three years is :

Year	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
1993-94	74.52
1994-95	52.73
1995-96	155.90

(b) No, Sir. No such survey has been carried out in the recent past about the protection of bee-keeping Industry in various states of the country particularly in Maharashtra.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

### Import of Coal from Australia

418. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to import coal from Australia;

(b) if so, whether any trade delegation from Australia visited the country recently in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of the discussions held with Australian delegation; and